

Reply to Office Action dated August 17, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-19, 21-34 and 36-47 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7-9 and 13 are amended.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments : (1) place the application in condition for allowance; and (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. More specifically, independent claim 1 is amended to include features of allowable dependent claim 7 and allowable dependent claim 9 is rewritten into independent form. Thus, no new issues are raised. Entry is thus proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The Office Action rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The above amendment to claim 13 obviates the grounds for rejection.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 15-19, 21-34 and 36-47 are allowed and that claims 7-11 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, features of allowable dependent claim 7 are incorporated into independent claim 1 and allowable dependent claim 9 is rewritten into independent form. Thus, each of independent claims 1 and 9 defines patentable subject matter.

Applicant is making the above amendment to further prosecution and in view of new Patent Office rules effective November 1, 2007 that limit protection afforded to an inventor. Applicant maintains that U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0011871 to Amemiya does not teach or

suggest that the first light-shielding layer and the second light-shielding layer are connected to each other, as recited in previous independent claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of the independent claims 1, 15, 16 and 39 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-19, 21-34 and 36-47 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and
please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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